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Do you want your submission marked as confidential? *	No
Do you want to receive future notifications and updates on the PNF Review? *	Yes
Which of the following best describes you? *	Landholder
Which draft PNF Code are you providing a submission on? *	Northern NSW

My comments

I believe that forestry on private land has a place in this country's agricultural pursuits, however it is surrounded by several environmentally sensitive issues, which can, if crossed cause similarly enormous damage to our environment as a whole.

Two of these issues are threatened species which must be sought out and avoided at all costs during logging operations, and the steepness of slopes where roads are constructed and logging undertaken, and in my view the upper limit for this must not exceed 25 degree slopes. Both of these issues must be monitored with diligence by the government authorities to ensure that landholders are adhering both to common sense and the legal requirements. The search for Threatened Species should be supported by the Local Land Services who, in turn, must ensure that they have available accurate and up-to-date maps for the purpose of protecting Threatened Species and Communities.

Unlike some other agricultural pursuits private native forestry if not managed appropriately can cause great effects to neighbours and the surrounding regional population. Really it is more similar to mining pursuits that can also have enormous detrimental effects on the surrounding regional area. For this reason it makes sense that permissions need to be sought from relevant authorities, and these permissions need to be followed up and monitored. The difference between appropriate and inappropriate logging can make the difference between permanent damage to the forests involved or a sustainably harvestable patch of timber, which shows no major loss of biodiversity, habitat and canopy size.

In order to maintain canopy size and retention of habitat, also required should be a minimum retention in very healthy habitat trees, no trees should be felled with a diameter at breast height of 800cm. Gullies and small streams, and any threatened plant species must be given a minimum clearance of twenty metres. Any damage caused that leads to weed invasion must be restored by the property owners, with a guaranteed positive result (such as a success rate of at least 90% of locally derived seedlings planted after five years). Obviously no clearfelling should be allowed at any time.

There should also be a clause in any permission given that logging must cease during and following a natural disaster such as a big fire, flood, or drought, until the native vegetation recovers (again monitored by an independent professional, and including evidence of seed production, etc.).

These submissions always seem to be more of a political battle rather than any effort to improve our appalling environmental protection record. It is not only high time, it is essential if these environments are to continue their existence, and it would be more than pleasing to see the government forget the politics for once and remember these very important environments in our country, before they are converted to a very different environment.
